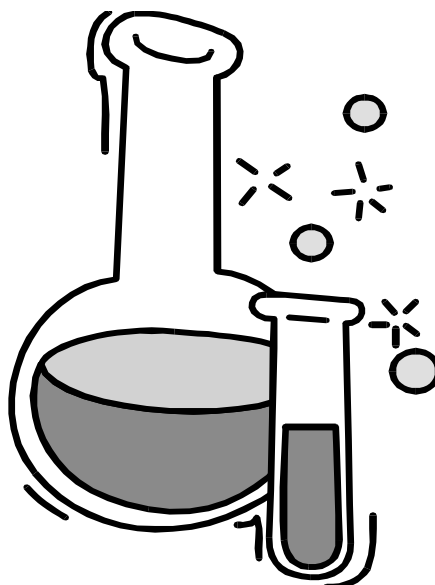


# **Meth:**

## **What's Cooking In Your Neighborhood?**



**Publication No. (ADP) 01-3639**

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# **METH: What's Cooking In Your Neighborhood?**

## **Methamphetamine use is on the rise.**

The 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse reports that 9.4 million people have tried it at least once—nearly triple the figure in 1994. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) notes that more than 10,000 people landed in hospital emergency rooms in 1999 after using methamphetamine. On a list of 85 drugs causing death in 1999 in the United States, methamphetamine is ranked sixth (690 deaths, or 6 percent of the total). The top five are, in order, cocaine, heroin/morphine, alcohol-in-combination, codeine, and Valium. The mortality rate for meth is climbing: it increased 38 percent from 1998 to 1999.

## **Kicks or Work?**

A recent study by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) shows that although some people use the drug to get high, there is also a connection to the American work ethic: people use meth to stay awake on the job.

## **For both types of methamphetamine users, the outcome is bleak.**

Meth also can cause a variety of cardiovascular problems, hyperthermia, and convulsions, all of which, if not treated immediately, can result in death.

The recent CSAP study “A Look At Methamphetamine Use Among Three Populations” (#3640) takes a close look at use among truck drivers, migrant workers, and men who have sex with men (although meth use is prevalent among other subgroups as well).

## **Students: A Deadly Way to Study or Lose Weight**

Some students use meth to enhance alertness. The drug appeals to youth who want to study all night or get a short, intense “rush.”

Teenage girls take methamphetamine to lose weight, as the drug suppresses appetite. About 7.9 percent of high school seniors polled by the 2000 “Monitoring the Future” survey had taken meth at least once—4.3 percent in the past year (about twice the rate of a decade ago).

To combat the rising use of methamphetamine among youth, a new “Tips for Teens: The Truth About Methamphetamine” (#8049) has been created. For free

copies of the Tips for Teens series or the CSAP meth study please call the Resource Center at 800-879-2772 or 1-800-622-HELP or e-mail the Resource Center at [ResourceCenter@adp.state.ca.us](mailto:ResourceCenter@adp.state.ca.us).

## **The Rural Unemployed**

Easy but dangerous to make, meth is manufactured in everything from home labs to barns. An upsurge of production in the early 1990s in California's San Joaquin Valley quickly spread to the Midwest, where manufacturers steal anhydrous ammonia fertilizer, a key ingredient, from farmers. The typical Midwestern meth "cooker" is a white male between 15 and 30 years old, with little education and living in poverty, often unemployed.

## **Interstate Truckers**

Despite Federal regulations that limit the hours they can drive in a single day, truck drivers are constantly looking for ways to stay awake longer, drive farther, and make more money. Seventeen out of 20 truck drivers interviewed in the CSAP study said that meth is easy to get at truck stops.

## **Migrant Workers**

Some Mexican and Mexican-American migrant workers in the construction, food service, and agriculture industries rely on methamphetamine to work longer hours and boost their earnings. All the participants in the CSAP study of Mexican migrant workers in Arizona said that use of the drug is increasing. Field workers typically pay \$5 to \$10 for a single dose from dealers who trek out to the fields to sell drugs.

## **Men with Men**

Methamphetamine use to boost sexual performance or alleviate depression among the homosexual population on the West Coast is not new, but the CSAP study shows meth is spreading to eastern and southern dance clubs and private homes.